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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/584,099	05/31/2000	Nino Richard Vaghi	04480002CA	4453

7590

09/09/2002

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EXAMINER

CHARLES, DEBRA F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/584,099

Applicant(s)

VAGHI, NINO R.

Examiner

Debra F. Charles

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 July 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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Claims 21-25 have been reviewed.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on 17 July 2002 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent No. 6249778 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

### ***Drawings***

2. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 17 July 2002. These drawings are accepted.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen et al. (US 4377214A) and EerNisse (US 4526247A).

As per claim 21, Hansen et al. disclose an electronic scale integrally formed within a flat-panel display(Hansen et al., Abstract, Fig. 1), comprising: a platform for supporting an item(Hansen et al., Abstract, Fig. 1); and a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing of said flat-panel display, said weighing unit including a force transducer(EerNisse et al., Abstract)

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which outputs a weight signal indicative of a weight of said item when said item is placed on said platform.

As per claim 22, Hansen et al. disclose an electronic scale integrally formed within a housing of a printer(Hansen et al., Abstract, Fig. 1), comprising: a platform for supporting an item(Hansen et al., Abstract, Fig. 1); a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing of said printer, said weighing unit including a force transducer(EerNisse et al., Abstract) which outputs a weight signal indicative of a weight of said item when said item is placed on said platform.

Hansen et al. fail to disclose a force transducer.

EerNisse et al. disclose a force transducer(EerNisse et al., Abstract).

As per claims 21 and 22, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hansen et al. to use a force transducer as taught by EerNisse et al. for converting the weight of an object into an electrical signal property indicative of the weight of the object.

Official Notice is taken that a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing does not function differently from a standard weighing unit and a weighing unit is old and well-known in the computer art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to implement Hansen et al.'s weighing unit as a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing in order to make the weighing unit more accessible to the user.

5. Claims 23, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen et al. (US 4377214A), EerNisse (US 4526247A) and Gil et al. (US 5586037A).

As per claim 23, Hansen et al. disclose an electronic scale(Hansen et al., Abstract, Fig. 1) integrally formed within a CRT monitor(Gil et al., Abstract, Col. 7, Lines 25-55, Col. 14, Lines 10-40), comprising: a platform for supporting an item(Hansen et al., Abstract, Fig. 1); and a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing of said CRT monitor, said weighing unit including a force transducer(EerNisse et al., Abstract) which outputs a weight signal indicative of a weight of said item when said item is placed on said platform.

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As per claim 24, Hansen et al. disclose an electronic scale integrally formed within a CPU unit(Gil et al., Abstract, Col. 6, Lines 15-25) of a personal computer, comprising:

a platform for supporting an item(Hansen et al., Abstract, Fig. 1); and  
a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing of said CPU unit(Gil et al., Abstract, Col. 6, Lines 15-25), said weighing unit including a force transducer(EerNisse et al., Abstract) which outputs a weight signal indicative of a weight of said item when said item is placed on said platform.

As per claim 25, Hansen et al. disclose a system for computing a postal or carrier rate, comprising:

a piece of office equipment selected from the group consisting of a flat-panel display unit(Hansen et al., Abstract, Fig. 1), a CRT monitor(Gil et al., Abstract, Col. 7, Lines 25-55, Col. 14, Lines 10-40), a CPU unit of a personal computer(Gil et al., Abstract, Col. 6, Lines 15-25), and a printer(Hansen et al., Abstract, Fig. 1), an electronic scale integrally formed within a housing of said piece of office equipment, said electronic scale including a platform for supporting an item(Hansen et al., Abstract, Fig. 1) and a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing of said flat-panel display, said weighing unit including a force transducer(EerNisse et al., Abstract) which outputs a weight signal indicative of a weight of said item when said item is placed on said platform; and  
a processor for computing a postal or carrier rate for said item based on said weight signal(Hansen et al., Abstract).

As per claims 23,24 and 25, Hansen et al. fails to disclose a CRT monitor.

Gil et al. disclose a CRT monitor(Gil et al., Abstract, Col. 7, Lines 25-55, Col. 14, Lines 10-40) and a CPU unit (Gil et al., Abstract, Col. 6, Lines 15-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hansen et al. to use a CRT monitor and a CPU unit as taught by Gil et al. to view the weight of an object and its associated carrier charge and to calculate, within the computer, the weight of an object and its associated carrier charge.

As per claims 23,24 and 25, Hansen et al. fail to disclose a force transducer.

EerNisse et al. disclose a force transducer(EerNisse et al., Abstract).

As per claims 23,24 and 25, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hansen et al. to use a force transducer as taught by EerNisse et al. for converting the weight of an object into an electrical signal property indicative of the weight of the object.

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Official Notice is taken that a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing does not function differently from a standard weighing unit and a weighing unit is old and well-known in the computer art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to implement Hansen et al.'s weighing unit as a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing in order to make the weighing unit more accessible to the user.

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**Conclusion**

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Dlugos, Method and Apparatus for Batch Mail Processing with Integrated Scale and Automatic Manifest Compilation.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra F. Charles whose telephone number is (703) 305-4718. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5 Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Debra F. Charles  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3629

dfc  
August 29, 2002

  
**JOHN G. WEISS**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
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